THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been one incidence when two elephants were hit on 18-09-07 on Daitari-Banspani line in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Contractors' labourers

911. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contractors' labourers engaged in Railways are being deprived of statutory benefits, namely minimum wages, overtime allowances, P.F., medical allowances, etc.; and

(b) whether there is any machinery in Railways to check that contractors fulfil their statutory obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The contract labour engaged by the Railways are not deprived of statutory benefits under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(b) Indian Railways as Principal Employer ensures fulfilling of statutory obligations by the contractors.

Diversion of train routes

912. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKARREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trains are being diverted in some other routes in Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh contradicting to the earlier announcements of the routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the present routes of railway in Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) what are the railway stations upgraded in Telangana region during the last three years, station-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following 10 rail routes are located in the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh:

(i) Khammam-Dornakal-Warangal-Sirpur Town (Balharshad route)

(ii) Hyderabad-Secunderabad-Nawandgi (Wadi route)

(iii) Secunderabad-Vikarabad-Matalkunta (Bidar route)

(iv) Bibinagar-Vishnupuram (Miryalguda route)